Agreement on nuclear risk reduction

1072. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to Islamabad he has signed a major agreement on nuclear risk reduction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other agreements that were signed during the visit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No. During EAM's visit to Pakistan on January 13-14, 2007 both sides agreed on early signing of the Agreement on Reducing the Risk from Accidents relating to Nuclear Weapons. The agreement was signed in New Delhi on February 21, 2007.

(c) No other agreement was signed during the visit.

Pilgrim tourism in India and Pakistan

1073. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to promote pilgrim tourism in India and Pakistan; and

(b) the facilities that are being offered to pilgrims in both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government have proposed to Pakistan Government the liberalisation of the bilateral visa regime to include Pilgrim Visas to each other's nationals desiring to visit religious shrines. During the Secretary (Culture) talks held in Islamabad on July 26-27, 2005, both countries agreed to expand the Bilateral Protocol on Visit to Religious Shrines, 1974, to increase the number of shrines and the number of pilgrims. India has proposed an expanded list of shrines in both countries for inclusion in the Bilateral Protocol.

(b) Visits of pilgrims between India and Pakistan are covered under the Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines—1974. This provides for three Hindu pilgrimages (total 800 pilgrims) and four Sikh pilgrimages (total